

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HORNE WINS PRELIMINARY APPROVAL FOR DESTRUCTION OF BARRIERS TO ENTRY INTO TEACHING PROFESSION

PHOENIX (Tuesday, May 25, 2004) -- State Schools Chief Tom Horne yesterday won preliminary approval from the State Board for his proposal for destruction of barriers to entry into the teaching profession. Under the proposal, applicants with bachelors degrees could obtain teaching certificates without ever departing from the full-time work force.

Horne stated: "School districts would partner with institutions of higher learning, county superintendents, or with the Department of Education directly. They would establish programs under which applicants with bachelors degrees would undergo an intensive summer program, and then begin teaching under active mentorship, but be paid full-time salaries for the teaching. They would simultaneously take courses, and eventually obtain full teaching certificates."

The State Board took the first step toward approval yesterday, approving a motion to begin the process for amending certification rules to provide for this program.

Horne added: "Until recently, someone with a bachelors degree in another subject, who decided to become a teacher, would have to undergo another two years of full-time education. Most could not afford this. There are now ten month compressed programs, but this is the first time it has been planned for people to be able to move into the teaching profession without any time off from work. Arizona has a great need for increased quantities of highly qualified teachers, and we are determined to break down artificial barriers to entry into the teaching profession by bright people with subject matter knowledge."

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